

OCT 27 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following **listing of claims** replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~[[The]] Acoustic aeoustic apparatus according to claim 13,~~
wherein suitable for underwater use, said acoustic apparatus comprising:

a tube generally characterized by a geometric longitudinal tubular axis;

plural hydrophonic devices each generally characterized by a geometric longitudinal hydrophone axis, each said hydrophonic device having an axial bore and a diametric bore wherein said axial bore is disposed generally along said hydrophonic axis and said diametric bore is disposed generally perpendicular to said hydrophonic axis;

a line generally characterized by a geometric longitudinal linear axis that is approximately coincident with said tubular axis, said line having an at least substantially braided configuration; and

plural pins;

wherein said hydrophonic devices, said line and said pins are situated inside said tube, said line passing through said axial bores of said hydrophonic devices, said hydrophonic devices being approximately aligned with each other so that the corresponding said hydrophonic axes are

PATENTS

approximately coincident with said tubular axis, said pins each being associated with said line and a said hydrophonic device so that said hydrophonic devices are each fastened with respect to said line, each said pin passing through said line and through said diametric bore of the corresponding said hydrophonic device;

wherein said tube is characterized by a tubular length and two tubular ends, [[;]] said tube being [[is]] smooth in two end portions of said length, said end portions being proximate said two tubular ends, [[;]] said tube having [[has]] generally circumferential folds in a medial portion of said length, said medial portion being between said two end portions, [[; and]] said circumferential folds being [[are]] one of corrugations and convolutions.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 14 [[13]], wherein said line includes plural strands that are generally adaptable to sufficient separation with respect to each other for permitting each said pin to pass through said line.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 14 [[13]], wherein said hydrophonic devices:

are approximately equally spaced apart from each other;

each generally describe a cylindrical shape; and

each include sensory means and preamplification means.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 14 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein:

said acoustic apparatus further comprises two headers;

~~said tube has two tubular ends;~~

said line has two linear ends;

each said header engages said tube at a said tubular end; and

said headers hold said line at said two linear ends.

Claim 18 (original): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said tube contains oil, and wherein said headers seal said tube so as to prevent egress of oil and ingress of water with respect to said tube.

Claim 19 (original): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said acoustic apparatus further comprises plural electrically conductive wires adaptable to electrical connection with a telemetric receiving station, and wherein at least one said header is provided with at least one hole for permitting at least some said wires to pass through said header for effecting said electrical connection.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 19 [[20]], wherein said acoustic apparatus further comprises an interior sleeve, and wherein said interior sleeve:

is generally characterized by a geometric longitudinal interior sleeve axis that is approximately coincident with said tubular axis;

has an at least substantially mesh configuration; and

is situated inside said tube and outside said hydrophonic devices, said line and said pins.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said acoustic apparatus further comprises a fairing combination, and wherein:

said fairing combination includes an exterior sleeve and plural ribbons;

said ribbons are arranged outside said exterior sleeve for imparting a selected hydrodynamic character to said acoustic apparatus;

said exterior sleeve is generally characterized by a geometric longitudinal exterior sleeve axis that is approximately coincident with said tubular axis;

said exterior structure has an at least substantially mesh configuration; and

said fairing combination is situated outside said tube.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said circumferential folds attribute said tube with a kinking-resistant character.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The acoustic apparatus according to claim 19 [[20]], wherein said circumferential folds attribute said tube with a kinking-resistant character.

Claim 25 (previously presented): Acoustic apparatus comprising at least one elongate structure and plural acoustic devices, each said elongate structure having a geometric longitudinal axis, plural said acoustic devices being situated inside each said elongate structure and being aligned along said geometric longitudinal axis, each said elongate structure including a hose, a pair of headers, and a pair of joints, said hose having a main section and two cuffed end sections, said main section having circumferential folds for preventing kinking of said main section, each said header plugging a said cuffed end section, each said joint being attached to a said header.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus defined in claim 25, wherein said cuffed end sections are smooth, said joints are flexible, and said folds are one of convolutions and corrugations.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus defined in claim 26, wherein each said elongate structure further includes, situated inside said hose, an elongate strength member and plural fasteners, said strength member connecting said pair of said headers, said strength member being at least substantially characterized by a braided configuration so as to be permit the disposition therethrough of said fasteners, each said fastener fastening a said acoustic device

PATENTS

with respect to said strength member.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus defined in claim 26, wherein each said elongate structure is adaptable to containment of an acoustically suitable fluid so that said acoustically suitable fluid is sealed inside said structure and so that ambient fluid is sealed outside said structure.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus defined in claim 26, said acoustic apparatus further comprising an acoustically suitable fluid that is contained by said structure, said acoustically suitable fluid being sealed inside said structure so that ambient fluid is sealed outside said structure.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus defined in claim 26, said acoustic apparatus comprising plural said elongate structures and further comprising a pair of frames, each said elongate structure being interposed between said frames so that one said joint connects said elongate structure to one said frame and so that the other said joint connects said elongate structure to the other said frame, said acoustic apparatus having a pliable quality associated with the kinking preventiveness of said main section of each said elongate structure and associated with and the flexibility of said joints of each said elongate structure, said pliable quality facilitating storage of said apparatus.

Claim 31 (previously presented): Acoustic apparatus comprising plural acoustic sensors, a hose, two headers, and two connective lines, said hose being characterized by a geometric longitudinal axis and encompassing said acoustic sensors, said acoustic sensors being arrayed along said geometric longitudinal axis, said hose including a longitudinally intermediate portion and two longitudinally extreme portions, said intermediate portion of said hose being at least substantially characterized by an uneven kinking-preventative shape selected from the group consisting of convoluted and corrugated, said extreme portions of said hose each being at least substantially characterized by an even connection-facilitative shape, each said header fitting inside a said extreme portion of said hose, each said connective line being at least substantially characterized by flexibility and being capable of connecting a said header with a body.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus of claim 31 wherein said acoustic apparatus further comprises an elongate strength member and plural fasteners, said hose encompassing said elongate strength member and said fasteners, said elongate strength member being situated along said geometric longitudinal axis and being connected at its ends to said headers, said elongate strength member being at least substantially characterized by a braided configuration so as to permit the disposition therethrough of said fasteners, each said fastener being for fastening a said acoustic sensor with respect to said elongate strength member.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus of claim 31, said acoustic apparatus further comprising an acoustically suitable fluid sealed inside said hose by said headers, said acoustic apparatus being capable of use in an environmental aqueous fluid so that said

environmental aqueous fluid is sealed outside said hose by said headers.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The acoustic apparatus of claim 31, said acoustic apparatus further comprising electrical conduction means, a portion of said electrical conduction means being encompassed by said hose, said electrical conduction means being for transmitting data from said acoustic sensors to data acquisition means.